The Vertuous Wife is the glory of her Husband;

OR, *A good woman in her proper Colours.*

Who for Beauty, Modeſty and Grace,
Her comely Carriage, and her vertuous Life,
Was nere aſhamed yet, for to ſhew her face,
And own her name, (*The good and Vertuous Wife.*)

Look on her comely Face, her vertuous dreſs,
Tis neat though homely, you muſt needs confeſs,
Her very geſture ſhews a mind well fraught,
With grace and goodneſs, hating all that's naught.
you ſee her, Buy her, read her at your leiſure,
Twill lend as much to profit as to pleaſure.

THE VERTUOUS WIFE

Is the Glory of her *Husband*;

OR,

A Good *Woman* in her Proper Colours.

Shewing at large the Rare Endowments, Excellent qualities, that are as Ornaments and Jewels, which bedeck the breast of the truly Vertuous Woman.

Also ten Characters, or rare Jewels, hanging in the Crown of the vertuous Wife, who is the Glory of her Husband, the honour of her age, the mirrour of her *Sex*, the best Earthly Portion in the world.

Likewise many examples, as well Modern as Divine, Queens, Princes, and Ladies, eminent for Vertue and Goodness.

Lastly, A few counsels to all young men to be wary in their choice, if ever they would obtain, that portion of portions, and Incomparable Jewel, the Good Wife.

Prov. 31. 30. *Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but the woman that fears the Lord, she shall be praised.*

By *L. P.* A well-wisher to all Good Women.

Printed for T. Passenger, at the three Bibles on the middle of London-Bridge. 1667.

COurteous Reader, I here preſent unto thy view, a true deſcription and Character of a vertuous Wife, ſet forth in her proper colours. Perhaps thou may'ſt wonder, that I would undertake to write any thing in the defence of that Sex, which ſo many have ſpent their railing diſcourſes againſt: the more need therefore there is, that ſomething appear in Print for the juſtifying of thoſe, whom ſo many condemne. Dare you ſay (becauſe ſo many appear to be bad) that none are good? Examples in all ages and in the worſt of times, do at large declare, Famous Monuments of vertue, wiſdom, and all graces are to be ſeen of women. Becauſe ſome are wantons, Dare you ſay all are unchaſt? though there be ſome counterfeit Gold, ſo there is ſome true Gold; and though men happen on a wicked diſſolute woman, yet all do not ſo: ſome thrive by throwing the Dice: as there is droſs, ſo there are ſome Jewels: as there is gall, ſo there is ſome Honey. Therefore Condemn not all for one, but be adviſed to be wary in thy choice, and be not afraid to lye in the graſs, becauſe a ſnake lyeth there. Men are not afraid to go to ſea, becauſe ſome men are drowned at Sea; neither are men afraid to go to bed, becauſe ſome men die in their beds; ſo be not afraid to marry, becauſe ſome men have ill fortune by Marriage.

But behold this book, and see the Lively character of the vertuous wife drawn to the life. A vertuous woman is a good mans portion. Endeavour after vertue thy self, and in time thou mayst find to thy happy content the Rare Jewel, called a Good wife, which are the hearty wishes of the Author.

L. P.

LO here the matchless pattern of wife,
In vertue clad set forth unto the life;
For good behaviour, modesty and wit,
And other graces, which her mind befit:
A perfect wife, a vertuous comely Dame,
A Vertuous VVoman is she call'd by Name:
He that enjoys her, hath all worldly good,
A blessed portion, cloath'd in flesh and blood.
H'hath got himself a pattern for his life,
More then a woman, better then a wife.
Beauty affords content but to the eye,
Honour Illustrates what it cometh nigh.
These are but complements, 'tis inward worth,
That onely sets a Vertuous woman forth.
Go vertuous Dame and shew thy inward grace,
Thy outward carriage, gesture, wit, and face:
That he who sees thee, may wish 'twere his fate,
To live and dye with such a vertuous Mate.

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The Good Portion for good Men:

OR,

A Vertuous Woman a good mans Portion.

Many Daughters have done Vertuously, but thou excellest them all.

OF Men that have been remarkably Vertuous, and patterns for piety, and all other graces, Hiſtories as well Modern as Divine, have very largely diſcourſed of: and infinite of Examples of all Ages and Generations do in abundance witneſs the ſame. Yet ſhould I recount them all, They can never exceed th

piety and vertue which I have read of in Women, who have been famous for all vertues. I shall therefore in the first place endeavour to lay before you the Character of a vertuous Wife, in nine or ten Particulars, and then leave a few counsels and wholsom rules, for the practice of young men to attain the Subject, called, The Vertuous wife.

1. The first Character of a good Wife, is this; She is one who hath the fear of God before her eyes, though the Daughters of Zion be haughty, and go with a stiff neck, and all their actions bespeak their Pride, the vertuous Wife will endeavour in all things to keep a conscience void of offence both toward God and toward Man: though others can sin with a high hand, and commit iniquity with greedinels, she dares not, will not, disobey God, for fear of that wrath and judgement which is denounced against all those who break his Commands, but she walks not as a fool but as wise, Redeeming the time, knowing the days are evil: so in hopes of that recompence of Reward promised to the obedient, she perseveres to the end in every good work, and will not, though to gain a world, let the fear of man over-sway and over-ballance that fear of God which is always & upon every account before her eyes.

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2. The second Character of a Vertuous Wife, is this, she endeavor to live in love with, and subjection to her own husband: she's not ready to render railing for railing, and back-biting for back-biting, but follows the example of vertous Sarah, who obeyed Abraham, and called him Lord: Though her husband be a daily temptation to her, and a great provocation to stir up wrath in her, yet she is equally ballanced, and will love in the midst of envy; his by her vertue will conquer all difficulties, and throw down all temptations which might arise in her spirit to the doing of any evil, or to the committing of any revenge, but is ready to render good for evil, love for hatred, she is far from the spirit of revenge, she is resolved to live in love, as Christ hath loved her, and given himself for her, she resolves to accompany her master every where, even at such a time when his Disciples left him: as the love of God remains sure, so shall her love and subjection remain to the end, in the midst of all opposition; and in this she is the admiration of all, and a rare pattern as well as a good portion for good men.

3. The third Character of a Vertuous Wife, is; she is one who is cloathed with the

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garment of humility, 1 Pet. 3.3. whose adorning, let it not be that outward adorning of platting the hair, or wearing of gold, or putting on apparel, but had rather let it be the hidden man of the heart, even the ornaments of a meek and quiet spirit, which being in the sight of God of great price, she desires to be cloathed with it, she desires to be found in a humble frame of spirit before the Lord, knowing the contrite and humble spirit the Lord will not despise: and this is a godly ornament in a womans breast, and is accompanied with great renown: for while some lofty loks cannot endure the sight of a poor wretch, the woman adorned with humility, will out of the vertuous inclination of her spirit, endeavour to be serviceable in her place and generation, and shew her piety even to poverty: she visits the poor, and refreshes the bowels of the needy, and her Christian prudence is set before her eyes, to make every thing seem reasonable that is aged by her: humility is a comly ornament in a womans breast.

4. She is one who hath learned the rare Jewel, and incomparable art of Christian contentment: come riches or poverty, liberty or restraint, honour or dishonour, life or death, come what will come, she hath learn'd

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in every estate to be content: hath God sent her a wicked husband, a man of Belial, a man of a contentious spirit, and froward disposition, she by the help of God is resolved to live in subiection to him, and therefore is ready to give a good example, and grows better, and his sin is a whetstone to her grace, and a medicine for her security: in this she is the glory of her sex, and the mirror of her age, for though others have their dainties, & delights: Content is her best dish; in the want of all earthly comfort and injoyments, she can sit down with content, and say with the Psalmist, The Lord is my portion, therefore I shall not want: She knows that discontent is a viper in the breast, that spits venome in the face of God, therefore resolves in her self to hinder the over-spreading of this fretting Leprosie in her soul, and so continually kæps spirit in an humble frame, not in any thing extolling her own worth or defects.

5. A fifth Character of a vertuous wife, is Patience: hath she crosses either inward or outward, she is resolved to let patience have its perfect work. A hasty froward spirit is contemned by her, she had rather follow the example of Job, then Jobs wife, though her body be afflicted, her mind distempered, and she be continually surrounded with sorrow, yet

yet will she wait upon God patiently all her appointed time, untill her change come. And this grace is an enemy to all hasty and rash spirits, with griefe of spirit and trouble of heart it is; which when she considers that daring speech of Job's wife to her husband, when she bad him curse God and dye, for enduring those afflictions from the Hand of God, she would not for a world tempt the Lords patience so much, by forgetting her own duty and work of patience in her soul.

6. A Vertuous wife, is a map of sobriety and modesty. Stubbornness, and obstinacy, are herbs that grow not in her garden, her pride is only to be cleanly, and her thrift not to be prodigal; she scorns the company of tatling Gossips, and is more seen then heard: in her face and gesture, and in all actions, you may read nothing but vertue.

Birth, Beauty, Wealth, unless with grace mixt,
Are too poor things for generous hearts to fix,
Sobriety and modesty, in one,
Are Jewels rare which grace the head alone.

7. She is very careful of her domestick Charge. Though wantons and careless housewives are gadding abroad and wantonizing among their companions, and cares not

which

which end goes foremost at home, yet the vertuous woman, out of the generoulneſs of her ſpirit, is reſolved to be a pattern to all women, and will be ſo diligent in her domeſtick charge, that no one ſhall have the leaſt cauſe to caſt the leaſt aſperſion upon her: ſhe will be very careful to provide things neceſſary for her family, in this ſhe is reſolved to preſerve her Reputation unſpotted; for whatever private imployment ſhe hath of her own, ſhe is careful firſt about her houſhold charge, to ſee that every thing be done in due order, ſhewing her ſelf in all things a pattern for good houſwives, and is likewiſe an honour to her Husband.

8. She is of a pleaſing and ſweet diſpoſition: ſhe hates the humours and ill qualities of thoſe pouting Dames, who think that the beſt behaviour which is accompanied with pride and Majeſty. Now the vertuous will know no difference betwæn the Knight and the Begger, the Lord, and the Peaſant, but will be very courteous to all, that he who runs may read vertue in all her actions.

9. A vertuous Wife is accompanied with Chaſtity and Courteſie, which two godly qualities reduce a Woman into a perfect temper: the praiſes of Chaſtity are innumerable. Daphne reſiſting the woing of Apollo,

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was turned into a Lawrel, after which he always wore a Lawrel in his Hat, to testifie his Love.

10. A Vertuous Wife wears prudence & discretion in all her actions: beauty makes them but humane, but prudence makes them more like divine; if beauty wins them love, prudence makes them worthy of admiration. When Theseus was exposed to the Mercatour in the Labyrinth, who furnished him with means for his delivery, but by the discretion and prudence of the Princess whom he served, else he had never been disintangled from those intricate windings. When Jason was to serve as a prey to the furious Bulls that kept the Fleece, was it not Medea that Enchanted them? and made the passage free unto the Prince, to carry that away which none durst enterprize.

In a word, the man that injoyes her, hath a happy portion, and hath great cause to bless God for his infinite goodness, for sending him such a comfort as a good wife, who for her vertue can parallel, whose greatest learning is Religion, dishonesty ne'r comes nearer then her ears: she hath content of her own, and seeks not a Husband but finds him, the good of her Husband is the fullness of her

her actions, she doth nothing more then love him, she is made up of goodness.

And as she's good, she likewise is discreet,
All heavenly graces in her brest do meet:
A soul, a body, not a soul alone,
Goodness, and wit, and beauty all in one.
All pride fast bound in chains behind her lies,
Foul lust and envy from her presence flies:
And on her brest in golden Letters write,
Mans best beloved, and most chiefest delight;
He that in's choice doth meet with such a wife,
May well rejoyce all the days of his life.

Historyes make mention of women famous for all vertues, amongst which, lets not forget the merit of memory, our late most illustrious Queen Elizabeth, of happy memory, who was a *Saba* for her wisom, a warlike Amazon for her magnanimity, a Cleopatra for her bounty, and a Camelia for her chastity: all men have spoke too little, no man can speak too much: sacred be still her memory to us on earth, as her blessed soul lives ever blessed in Heaven.

Here succéded (though not in absolute Monarchy) yet a Princess of unspotted fame, incomparable Clemency, and immatchable

matchable goodness, and most remarkable vertue) Queen Anne, whom all degrees honoured, all Nations loved, and no tongue was ever heard to asperse with ỳ least Calumny, and by whom none had ever the least cause of sorrow, unless in the lamentable loss of so Grave and Gracious a Princess. And amongst famous Women, lets not forget the late hopeful Lady, the Lady Elizabeth, who for all Princely virtues was the mirrour of her Age, and the glory of our Nations! Of Ladies Renowned for Chastity, and other Vertues, whole Volumes are filled with Lucretia being adulterated by Sextus Tarquinus, after she had sent to her Friends to acquaint them with her injuries, because she would not live to be a by-word to Rome, nor preserve a defiled body for so noble a Husband, with a Knife which she had hid under her garment, stab'd her self before them all. Likewise of women eminent for conjugal love unto their Husbands, I have read of one Pandorus, who had a beautiful young Wife, to whom he was ardently affected: she on a time earnestly desired him to forbear all conflicts with ỳ enemy, to endanger both himself and her to ruine; but he by no means would hearken to her entreaties, which caused

sed to beg of him, before he went to end her fears, and transpierce her body with his Sword, which he denyed, and went out to the Battel: but at the first Onset, the whole Army was overthrown, and himself slain, and his beautiful wife immediately took captive, and carried to the King: whose great beauty much astonied him: insomuch that after a short time he desired her in marriage, which she put off with all possible delays: insomuch that he resolved to attain that by compulsion, which he could not by perswasion: which coming to her ears, she retired in private by her self, and wrote these words and left them upon the Table. (Let none report, that the Wife of Pandorus harboured so little love as to out-live him.) And then she immediately took a Knife and pierced her self.

Thus having given you in brief the true Character of a truely vertuous Wife in her Ornaments most richly deckt, and for her graces for ever be admired. I shall now give a few Counsels to the honest young men of this age, to be wary in their choice, to see that they be careful to chuse such as are thus qualified: for as there are good and vertuous wo-

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men, so on the contrary there are too many that are a shame to their Sex, a dishonour to their Parents, and the sole troubles of a Family: therefore young men, when ever you find a woman cloathed with all those Ornaments of vertue, bless God for it, and take her as a rare Jewel, a Princely Portion, sent you to improve to your good, and his glory.

1. Be careful young men in your choice, because on it depends one great part of your welfare here on earth: without this, all your joys will be mixed with abundance of sorrow. What is a greater cause of comfort and joy here on earth, then a vertuous wife? she is a comfort of Youth, the staff of Age, a Jewel, a Crown, an Ornament to her Husband: therefore young men be wary, as ever you would have joy and comfort in this worth, let it not be enough that beauty adorns her face, but see that vertue adorns her actions: for the Proverb may of prove true: Under a fair face may be hid a false heart. Thou canst not be too cautious in this thy choice: therefore be as wary as thou canst.

2. The second counsel I would give young men, is this: As I would have you look into her

her qualities and conditions, ſo inquire after the Life and Converſation of her Parents. If the Parents be vertuous, they will endeavour as near as poſſible, to trace up their Children in the way they ſhould go, that when they are old they may not depart from it: this way, though not always ſure, yet it is the ſureſt way thou canſt go. Mark diligently, and inquire after her behaviour, ſee that ſhe be vertuous, wiſe, and kind, ſuch a Wife will make thee a happy man, and thy life ſhall be a comfort, which otherwiſe would be a burthen to thee, therefore account of her as the onely treaſure thou enjoyeſt upon the earth, and the rareſt Jewel that ever thou didſt or ſhall enjoy in this world.

3. Chuſe one that is vertuous, becauſe ſhe looketh well to the ways of her houſhold, and eateth not the bread of idleneſs: A vertuous Wife is a credit to her Husband. See the wiſeſt of men, even Solomon, his commendation of a vertuous woman: in the laſt Chap. of the Prov. from Verſe 10 to the end. Who can find a vertuous woman? For her price is far above Rubies. The heart of her Husband can ſafely truſt in her, ſo that ſhe ſhall have no need of ſpoil. She will do him good and not evil

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all the days of her life: *She* ſeeketh Wool and Flax, and worketh diligently with her hands: She's like the Merchants Ship, she bringeth Food from far. She ariſeth alſo while it is night, and giveth meat to her houſhold, and a portion to her Maidens: she conſidereth a Field and buyeth it, with the Fruit of her hands she planteth a Vineyard, she girdeth her loyns with ſtrength, and ſtrengthneth her arms: she conceiveth her merchandize is good, and her candle goeth not out by night: She layeth her hands to the ſpindle, and her hands hold the diſtaff: she ſtretcheth forth her hands to the poor; yea, she ſtretcheth forth her hands to the needy. *She* is not afraid of the Snow, for all her houſhold are cloathed with *Scarlet*: She maketh her ſelf coverings of Tapeſtry, her cloathing is Silk and *Purple*. Her Husband is known in the gates, when he ſitteth among the Elders of the Land: she maketh fine Linnen and ſelleth it, and delivereth Girdles to the Merchant. Strength and honour are her cloathing, and she ſhall rejoyce in time to come: she openeth her mouth with wiſdom, and in her Tongue is the *Law* of kindneſs. She looketh well to the ways of her houſhold, and eateth not the bread of idleneſs: her Children ariſe up and call her bleſſed, her husband alſo, and he praiſeth her, Many Daughters have done vertuouſly,

but

but thou excelleſt them all. Favour is deceitful, and Beauty is vain : but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praiſed: Give her of the Fruit o her hands, and let her own works praiſe her in the gates. Here is Solomons Emblem of a vertuous wife at large deſcribed. Be Cautious then in your choice, and lay this as a pattern before your eyes, as ever you would live happily here, and bleſſed hereafter : Endeavour to find the ſubject inſiſted on. The vertuous Wife.

So ſhall your Life
A bleſſed end procure,
A bleſſing come by ſuch a Wife,
That ever ſhall endure.

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